

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Grand Theft Auto

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1800470.000

Medium: Console Game

Distributor: Sony Interactive Entertainment NZ Ltd

Country of origin: United Kingdom

Language: English

Applicant: Sony Interactive Entertainment NZ Ltd

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 13 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Contains violence and offensive language.

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 30 October 2018

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: No notice of decision has been issued

	Components	Running time
Game:	Grand Theft Auto	
Total running time:		

Summary of reasons for decision:

Originally classified as R18 in 1998, 'Grand Theft Auto' was submitted for a reconsideration to discern whether this classification remains appropriate for such an old game. While the game remains identical, society and video games have not. In the past twenty years video games have become a common part of today's popular culture, and become drastically more advanced in visual fidelity, interactivity and scope. With this increasing availability and appeal of video games, come higher standards and expectations. On review, the Classification Office found that 'Grand Theft Auto', while a novel and somewhat transgressive video game for its time, no longer has the same impact as it did on its release and the potential for social harm if made available to younger players is therefore

drastically reduced. Considering the right to freedom of expression as set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, restricting the availability of the publication to teenagers and adults is the lowest reasonable restriction which can be applied in order to prevent injury to the public good.